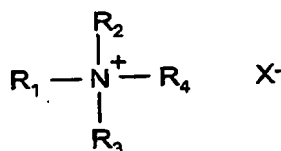


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 Serial No.: 10/537,556  
 Art Unit: 1621  
 Response to Office Action of 6/27/2007

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A quaternary ammonium composition consisting essentially of

a) a cationic compound with general formula:



wherein  $R_1$  is  $C_8$ - $C_{22}$ -alkyl,  $C_8$ - $C_{22}$ -alkenyl,  $C_8$ - $C_{22}$ -alkylamidopropyl,  $C_8$ - $C_{22}$ -alkenyl-amidopropyl,  $C_8$ - $C_{22}$ -alkyl/alkenyl(poly)alkoxyalkyl,  $C_8$ - $C_{22}$ -alkanoylethyl or  $C_8$ - $C_{22}$ -alkenoylethyl,  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  are  $C_1$ - $C_{22}$ -alkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{22}$ -alkenyl and  $R_4$  is a group of the formula  $-A-(OA)_n-OH$ ,  $A$  is  $-C_2H_4-$  and/or  $-C_3H_6-$ ,  $n$  is a number from 0 to 20 and  $X$  is an anion,

- b) less than 20 % by weight of water based on said composition and
- c) a non-ionic solvent selected from the group consisting of an alcohol or an ethoxylated alcohol with the general formula  $R-O-(AO)_nH$ , where  $R$  is alkyl or alkenyl group containing 8 to 22 carbon atoms,  $A$  is  $C_2H_4$  or  $C_3H_6$  and mixtures thereof, and  $n$  is a number from 0 to 20, nonylphenol or ethoxylated nonylphenol with the general formula  $C_8H_{18}$ -phenyl- $O-(AO)_nH$ , where  $A$  and  $n$  are as defined above, and mixtures thereof.

2. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1, which contains 5 to 60 % by weight of the cationic compound a).

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3.(Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the cationic compound a) is an C<sub>8</sub>-C<sub>22</sub>-alkyl or C<sub>8</sub>-C<sub>22</sub>-alkenyl-dimethyl-hydroxyethyl ammonium.

4.(Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1, which has 40 to 95 % by weight of the non-ionic solvent c).

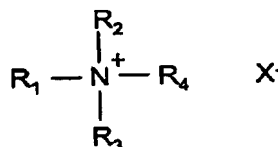
5.(Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1, which has less than 5% of by-products.

6.(Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1, which the non-ionic solvent is selected from the group consisting of an ethoxylated fatty alcohol, a fatty alcohol, a polyethylene glycol, a polypropylene glycol, a block co-polymer of ethylene and propylene, a nonylphenol, an ethoxylated nonylphenol, and a mixture thereof.

7.(Canceled)

7. 8.(Currently Amended) A process for preparing a quaternary ammonium composition consisting essentially of

a) a cationic compound with general formula:



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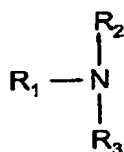
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wherein  $R_1$  is  $C_8$ - $C_{22}$ -alkyl,  $C_8$ - $C_{22}$ -alkenyl,  $C_8$ - $C_{22}$ -alkylamidopropyl,  $C_8$ - $C_{22}$ -alkenyl-amidopropyl,  $C_8$ - $C_{22}$ -alkyl/alkenyl(poly)alkoxyalkyl,  $C_8$ - $C_{22}$ -alkanoylethyl or  $C_8$ - $C_{22}$ -alkenoylethyl,  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  are  $C_1$ - $C_{22}$ -alkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{22}$ -alkenyl,  $R_4$  is a group of the formula  $-A-(OA)_nOH$  wherein  $A$  is  $-C_2H_4-$  or  $-C_3H_6-$ , or a mixture thereof,  $n$  is a number from 0 to 20 and  $X$  is an anion,

- b) less than 20 % by weight of water based on said composition and
- c) a non-ionic solvent selected from the group consisting of an alcohol or an ethoxylated alcohol with the general formula  $R-O-(AO)_nH$ , where  $R$  is alkyl or alkenyl group containing 8 to 22 carbon atoms,  $A$  is  $C_2H_4$  or  $C_3H_6$  and mixtures thereof, and  $n$  is a number from 0 to 20, nonylphenol or ethoxylated nonylphenol with the general formula  $C_8H_{19}$ -phenyl- $O-(AO)_nH$ , where  $A$  and  $n$  are as defined above, and mixtures thereof,

said process comprising:

reacting an amine of the formula



wherein  $R_1$  is  $C_8$ - $C_{22}$ -alkyl,  $C_8$ - $C_{22}$ -alkenyl,  $C_8$ - $C_{22}$ -alkylamidopropyl,  $C_8$ - $C_{22}$ -alkenyl-amidopropyl,  $C_8$ - $C_{22}$ -alkyl/alkenyl(poly)alkoxyalkyl,  $C_8$ - $C_{22}$ -alkanoylethyl or  $C_8$ - $C_{22}$ -alkenoylethyl,  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  are  $C_1$ - $C_{22}$ -alkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{22}$ -alkenyl or a group of the formula  $-A-(OA)_n-OH$ , wherein  $A$  is  $-C_2H_4-$  or  $-C_3H_6-$ , or a mixture thereof, and  $n$  is a number from 0 to 20 with an inorganic monohalo acid, and

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[[then]] further reacting the ammonium salt thus obtained with ethylene oxide or propylene oxide or a mixture thereof to provide said quaternary ammonium composition.

8 <sup>7</sup> 8.(Previously Presented) The process of claim <sup>7</sup> 7, wherein the amine is C<sub>8</sub>-C<sub>22</sub>-alkyl or C<sub>8</sub>-C<sub>22</sub>-alkenyl-dimethyl amine, or mixtures thereof.

9 <sup>7</sup> 9.(Previously Presented) The process of claim <sup>7</sup> 8, wherein the monohalo acid is aqueous, hydrochloric acid.

10 <sup>7</sup> 10.(Previously Presented) The process of claim <sup>7</sup> 9, wherein the ammonium salt is reacted with ethylene oxide.

11 <sup>7</sup> 11.(Previously Presented) The process of claim <sup>7</sup> 10, wherein the non ionic solvent is a C<sub>12</sub>/C<sub>14</sub>/C<sub>16</sub> alcohol polyglycol having 7 EO units.

12 <sup>7</sup> 12.(Previously Presented) The process of claim <sup>7</sup> 11, wherein the first step is proceed in a temperature between 20 and 100°C.

13 <sup>7</sup> 13.(Previously Presented) The process of claim <sup>7</sup> 12, wherein the second step is proceeded in a temperature between 40 and 100°C.

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15. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 8, wherein the amine is C<sub>8</sub>-C<sub>22</sub>-alkyl or C<sub>8</sub>-C<sub>22</sub>-alkenyl-dimethyl amine, or mixtures thereof.